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CLAIMS

1. An image forming apparatus using system including
at least one image forming apparatus having a touch panel and
5 an office supply information server that is connected to the
image forming apparatuses via a network,

the image forming apparatus comprising:

a client information sending part for sending order
information to the office supply information server; and

10 a server information receiving part for receiving
information from the office supply information server,

the office supply information server comprising:

a server information sending part for sending
information to the image forming apparatus; and

15 a client information receiving part for receiving
information input from the touch panel of the image forming
apparatus,

wherein the image forming apparatus orders an office
supply from the office supply information server by using the
20 client information sending part.

2. The image forming apparatus using system as
claimed in claim 1, the image forming apparatus further
comprising a user identifying part for identifying a user when
25 the user uses the image forming apparatus.

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3. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the image forming apparatus further comprising an operating system that provides a graphical user interface by which the user operates the image forming apparatus on the touch panel.

4. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in one of claims 1-3, wherein the office supply includes an IC chip by which the office supply can be identified, and the IC chip includes an identification information sending part for sending identification information of the office supply to the image forming apparatus by radio,

the image forming apparatus further comprising:

a counting part for counting the number of remaining supplies based on the identification information sent from each IC chip; and

a part for sending the number of the remaining supplies to the office supply information server,

wherein the office supply information server sends a supply order prompt message for prompting the user to order the supply to the image forming apparatus when the remaining number is smaller than a predetermined number for the supply.

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5. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in one of claims 1-4, the office supply information server further comprising:

a user information storing part for storing order
5 history of each user;

a preference information storing part for storing preference information of each user;

an advertisement generation part for generating an advertisement to be sent to each user on the basis of the
10 order history and the preference information; and

an advertisement sending part for sending the advertisement to the image forming apparatus.

6. The image forming apparatus using system as
15 claimed in one of claims 1-5, the image forming apparatus further comprising:

a supply remaining amount sending part for sending, to the office supply information server, data of a remaining amount of the supply in the image forming apparatus,

20 wherein the office supply information server sends a warning relating to the remaining amount to the image forming apparatus when the received remaining amount is smaller than a predetermined amount.

25 7. The image forming apparatus using system as

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claimed in one of claims 1-6, the image forming apparatus further comprising;

a scanning part for scanning a barcode of the supply; and

5 a barcode sending part for sending information of the barcode to the office supply information server,

the office supply information server further comprising:

a search part for searching for an office supply
10 corresponding to the barcode by using the information of the barcode,

wherein the office supply information server sends information of the office supply to the image forming apparatus if the office supply is found from the information
15 of the barcode, and the office supply information server registers the information of the office supply in an expansion commodity storage as a commodity to be newly dealt in if the office supply is not found from the information of the barcode.

20 8. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in one of claims 4-7, wherein the image forming apparatus displays an order screen for ordering office supplies in addition to displaying a supply order prompt message, an advertisement, a warning or the information of the
25 supply corresponding to the barcode, and

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the image forming apparatus sends information input from the order screen to the office supply information sever so that the office supplies are ordered.

5 9. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the order screen is displayed on the image forming apparatus as a screen different from a screen showing the supply order prompt message, the advertisement, the warning or the information of the supply
10 corresponding to the barcode.

 10. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the image forming apparatus outputs the order information input from the order screen as
15 a facsimile format so that the office supply is ordered by facsimile.

 11. The image forming apparatus using system as claimed in one of claims 2-10, wherein the office supply
20 information server refers to an amount of money stored in the user information storing part wherein the amount of money is a limit amount usable by the user for ordering office supplies, and

 if an amount of money necessary for purchasing the
25 office supplies ordered from the image forming apparatus by

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the user is smaller than the limit amount of money, the image forming apparatus performs an approval process.

12. An image forming apparatus using system

5 including a first image forming apparatus placed in a user's site, a second image forming apparatus placed in a municipality, and an office supply information server that is connected to the first and second image forming apparatuses, wherein:

10 the first image forming apparatus applies for a document by sending application information to the office supply information server;

the office supply information server sends a document reservation number to the first image forming
15 apparatus on the basis of the application information;

the first image forming apparatus outputs the document reservation number; and

the second image forming apparatus outputs the document on the basis of the document reservation number input
20 by the user.

13. An office supply information server that is connected to at least one image forming apparatus having a touch panel via a network, the office supply information
25 server comprising:

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a server information sending part for sending information to the image forming apparatus; and

a client information receiving part for receiving information input from the touch panel of the image forming
5 apparatus.

14. The office supply information server as claimed in claim 13, the office supply information server further comprising:

10 a user information storing part for storing order history of each user;

a preference information storing part for storing preference information of each user;

an advertisement generation part for generating an
15 advertisement to be sent to each user on the basis of the order history and the preference information; and

an advertisement sending part for sending the advertisement to the image forming apparatus.

20 15. The office supply information server as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the office supply information server receives a number of remaining office supplies in the image forming apparatus, and

the office supply information server sends a supply
25 order prompt message for prompting a user of the image forming

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apparatus to order the office supply to the image forming apparatus when the remaining number is smaller than a predetermined number for the office supply.

5 16. The office supply information server as claimed in one of claims 13-15, wherein the office supply information server receives data of a remaining amount of an office supply in the image forming apparatus, and

 the office supply information server sends a warning
10 relating to the remaining amount to the image forming apparatus when the received remaining amount is smaller than a predetermined amount.

 17. The office supply information server as claimed
15 in one of claims 13-16, the office supply information server further comprising:

 a search part for receiving information of a barcode from the image forming apparatus, and searching for an office supply corresponding to the barcode by using the information
20 of the barcode,

 wherein the office supply information server sends information of the office supply to the image forming apparatus if the office supply is found from the information of the barcode, and the office supply information server
25 registers the information of the office supply in an expansion

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commodity storage as a commodity to be newly dealt in if the office supply is not found from the information of the barcode.

18. The office supply information server as claimed
5 in one of claims 13-17, wherein the office supply information server refers to an amount of money stored in the user information storing part wherein the amount of money is a limit amount usable by a user for ordering office supplies, and
10 if an amount of money necessary for purchasing office supplies ordered from the image forming apparatus by the user is smaller than the limit amount of money, the image forming apparatus performs an approval process.

15 19. The office supply information server as claimed in one of claims 15-17, the office supply information server further comprising:

a stock management part for managing stock of office supplies, wherein the stock management part performs stock
20 management on the basis of information of an office supply relating to the supply order prompt message, information of an office supply relating to the warning, or the information of the barcode.